

The Listening Post

A newsletter from the Kentucky Talking Book Library

Number 55

Summer 2010

A Note on the Budget

As many of you are aware, the budget for all state agencies has been cut several times in the past two years. The Kentucky Talking Book Library is staffed by state employees from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, so we have had to cut back in many ways while still trying to maintain quality service. Some of the ways we have been affected are lack of staff, inability to buy supplies and equipment, a reduction in the number of books we record, and the need to stop producing our quarterly newsletter. This issue of *The Listening Post* is our first since Spring 2009. We felt it was important to touch base with our patrons, but regret we can only provide an email version at this time. Please share this newsletter with friends and other patrons who may not have email. It will also appear on our website at <http://kdla.ky.gov/collectionsktbl.htm> and on our Facebook page (see article below). If you ever have questions regarding your service, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-372-2968, or you can e-mail your librarian. Each librarian's e-mail is listed at the end of this newsletter. And now on to good news!

Digital Talking Book Players Now Available

The Kentucky Talking Book Library is distributing digital talking book players to patrons in good standing. Starting in 2011, all new talking books will only come on digital cartridges and there will be no more new books available on cassette tapes. Patrons will need to change to a digital player if they want to read recently-recorded books. We have already shipped digital players to approximately half our patrons, but would like to explain the equipment and policies because it may be new to many of you.

Player Description: You DO NOT need to have a computer to use a digital talking book player. The new digital player is about half the size of the cassette player and weighs only 2 pounds. It is easier to use and the sound is much better than on cassette tape. Each digital book comes on 1 cartridge roughly the size of a

cassette, and the cartridge slides easily into the front of the player. The book will play continuously without the need to turn it over or select sides. Best of all, there's no need to rewind the cartridge! The book will start at the beginning for the next patron who receives it. The player's battery charge can last as long as 29 hours, and it takes only 2.5 hours to fully recharge.

Getting Books for Your Digital Player: There are two options for receiving books for the digital player: 1) You can receive digital books by U.S. mail just like you receive cassette books. KTBL currently has about 2,000 titles that can be mailed on digital cartridge for a 30-day loan. You will be limited in the number of digital books you can receive, but as our digital collection grows we will send more digital books and fewer cassettes. 2) You may also sign up for the ability to download talking books from the Internet via BARD, which stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download. The BARD website has about 20,000 titles that you can download whenever you want; read more about BARD in the next article. Most patrons will continue to receive books on cassette even after they receive a digital player--especially if they are heavy readers or prefer older books.

Why Haven't I Gotten My Player Yet? KTBL has spent the past year looking at each person's record, beginning with those who have been with our service the longest. Those whose records were in good standing have received a new player. If you have not yet received one, it is probably because you have overdue books or your account is inactive. You must go at least three months with no overdue or lost materials to bring your account back into good standing. Call KTBL at 1-800-372-2968 to find the status of your account and be placed on the waiting list for a digital machine.

Keep Your Cassette Player: Even though new books will only be available on digital cartridges after next year, cassette talking books will continue to circulate for as long as we have copies available. Cassettes have been in use for over three decades, so most older books will not be converted to digital format. If you like older authors and books, chances are you will need a cassette player to read them. NLS magazines will remain on cassette for the near future due to the high cost of digital cartridges. NLS magazines can be downloaded from BARD. Kentucky Books are only available as cassette books at this time, although we will gradually convert them to digital format. KTBL will continue to provide replacements for defective cassette players. If you prefer to receive only digital books, please contact us *before* mailing your player so that we can make adjustments to your account. Please keep in mind that the selection of books may be limited.

Return digital books on time: The loan period for digital books is 30 days—the same as for cassette books. Because we have so few digital titles, there is a

long waiting list for every book. We beg you to be considerate of your fellow readers by reading and returning books quickly.

Be careful with our cartridges! KTBL has very few copies of most digital books--sometimes only one. We currently do not have the funds or equipment to replace lost digital book cartridges. Please make sure you include the proper cartridge in each mailing container you return. Patrons who lose multiple cartridges may have their digital circulation suspended at the discretion of their librarian. If you receive a digital book container without the cartridge, or with the wrong cartridge, please mark the return mailing label with an 'X' to indicate a problem. Call the library at 1-800-372-2968 to receive a replacement more quickly.

Kentucky Digital Books: At our studio in Frankfort, more than 30 volunteers record books by Kentuckians or about Kentucky that are not already part of the NLS collection. We will soon begin producing Kentucky books on digital cartridges for use with the new machines. From mysteries to sports, cooking to Kentucky history, we have books with local flavor in almost every genre. These books will be available only by mail and will not be on the BARD website. Please check for a new Kentucky Books catalog in the coming months.

Downloading Digital Books from BARD

Talking Books patrons who have digital players on loan from the library, or NLS-compatible players they have purchased, can sign up to download digital books from BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download website. To use this service you will need a computer with high-speed internet access, a valid e-mail address, and a removable USB flash drive device. While KTBL's collection of digital books grows every week, there are more than 20,000 books and many magazines available all day, every day on BARD. New books are added to the BARD website before the library receives physical copies, so you can read the latest books by your favorite authors sooner by downloading them. If you would like to download books and haven't already signed up, follow the link below to complete the short online application. Your request will be processed in 1-2 business days, and you will receive an e-mail with a temporary password for logging into the website for the first time. You will also receive a welcome e-mail from KTBL with general download instructions and tips for purchasing flash drives or flash cartridges.

BARD Application link:

<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/KY1A/ApplicationInstructions.html>

Changes to the Catalog Format

New issues of the bi-monthly catalog, Talking Book Topics, now include books in both cassette and digital formats. Book numbers beginning with RC are only available on cassette; book numbers beginning with DB are only available on digital cartridge. Books produced in both formats have a number beginning with DB/RC, so you will need to indicate which format you prefer by marking the appropriate column on the order sheets. Please be aware that because we are receiving fewer copies of each cassette book and we have fewer titles of digital books, wait times may be longer. The more selections you make, the better your chances something will be available.

Each year the National Library Service also releases a catalog that compiles the previous year's issues of Talking Book Topics and separates the books by subject. This catalog, which used to be titled *Cassette Books*, will now be called *Digital Talking Books Plus*. The yearly compilation of Braille Book Review issues will still be called *Braille Books*. The catalogs compiling the 2009 issues are scheduled to be released in fall 2010.

Leslie Stivers, Our Friend

Leslie Wilson Stivers, who worked in our circulation department for the past four years, passed away on March 2, 2010. Leslie was a Master Sergeant in the Air National Guard and served in Iraq (both Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom) and in Afghanistan. He was always the first person to step forward and volunteer for projects both in Talking Books and the rest of the Department for Libraries and Archives, and he kept high spirits no matter how busy we were. He will always be remembered for his generosity, his sense of humor (especially his prank phone calls!), and his dedication in all his pursuits. To his family, we offer our sincerest condolences. Leslie was one-of-a-kind, and he will be missed.

Congrats to Our Newest 10² Member

Frank Joseph Carey of Richmond joined the National Library Service's 10² Club this year, becoming Kentucky's 16th member to enter the elite group of patrons who are still active readers at 100 years of age or older. Mr. Carey has been an avid reader all his life and has averaged three books per week since joining the Talking Books service a year ago. His favorite authors include Elmore Leonard, John Grisham, and James Patterson, and he downloads their latest books from BARD.

A native of New Jersey, Mr. Carey grew up playing football and basketball for school teams, and since moving to Kentucky five years ago, he has enjoyed

watching horse races at Keeneland and rooting for UK basketball. Mr. Carey was also honored as a Kentucky Colonel on the occasion of his 100th birthday. KTBL congratulates all its centenarians for continuing to pursue the joys of reading.

Have a Note for Your Librarian?

If you send a note to your librarian in a book you are returning, the book does not qualify for “Free Matter” mailing. The post office may return it to you for postage. To ensure that your librarian receives your message, please call the library toll-free at 1-800-372-2968, mail the letter directly to us in an envelope, or e-mail the message to your librarian. Complete contact information appears in the final article, “Important Items to Remember”.

KTBL on Facebook

Do you have a Facebook account? Please join KTBL’s Facebook group by searching for “Kentucky Talking Book Library” on the Facebook website: <http://www.facebook.com>. If you are not familiar with it, Facebook is a social network website that people use to keep up with friends, family, and associates by sharing news and photos. Our group is open to all users, friends, and supporters. Librarian Jenny Paul makes updates about the latest NLS and KTBL news, includes book lists, and shares tips for Talking Book readers. You can also view photos and find information for contacting your librarian. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jenny at jennifer.paul@ky.gov.

Donations

KTBL would like to thank the following people for making donations to our library. Donations are becoming more vital with recent and future budget cuts, so your generosity makes our programs possible and is greatly appreciated by both staff and readers.

Nello Adams
Hayden Branscum
Eunice Clark
Lula Collins
John & Anna Cook
Barbara Cowden
Judith Cress
Doris & Othur Garrett
Glennie Garrett
Dorothy Gaskin
Evelyn Gibb
James Gissing

Ermine Goodman
Roy & Betty Hardin
Billie & John Harmon
Peggy Harp
Louise T. Heidorn
Kate House
Robert Howorka
Barbara Ison
Truman Lawrence
Nancy McDuffie
W.R. McDuffie
Jack Miller

**Wylene Payne
Nathan Pierce
Pauline Pope
Sharleen W. Power
Carl & Barbara Richards
Fay Sandmann
Marie Saunders**

**Mary Lee Shaw
Maidie Stanley
Mary Frances Stevens
Mary Ann Swerczek
Dewey Yates**

In Memory of Pearl Hendren Howard by Jane Howard Cross & the Pearl Howard Family

In Memory of Virginia Ellis by Glenda Conway, Susan Nimocks, Maurice & Mary Miller, Margaret Oerther, John Rall, Judy Thompson, and the ECW Night Circle

In Memory of Leslie Stivers by Carol Baughman and Wayne & Deborah Onkst

In Memory of Donald Burge by Donald & Merrilyn Penegor

In Memory of Ewing Cantrill by Nancy Blazer, Bill & Marilyn Cook, Pamela Dunn, and Jerri Robinson

If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. Please do not send cash through the mail. Donations are 100% tax deductible. The Talking Book Library does not solicit donations by telephone. If you receive such a call, please be aware that it does not come from or benefit KTBL.

Dates to Remember

The Talking Book Library will be closed on the following dates. We run an extra day's circulation prior to each closure. Please be aware that there are usually postal delays following a holiday.

**September 3, 2010—State furlough day
September 6, 2010—Labor Day
November 11, 2010—Veteran's Day
November 12, 2010—State furlough day
November 25-26, 2010—Thanksgiving
December 23-24—Christmas Holiday
December 30-31—New Year's Holiday**

Important Items to Remember

**Kentucky Talking Book Library
P.O. Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602-0537**

1-800-372-2968 (toll-free)

1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. EDT

You may leave a voice mail message after hours.

E-mail:

Barbara Penegor, Librarian for Patrons A-F: barbara.penegor@ky.gov

Janet Chisman, Librarian for Patrons G-O: janet.chisman@ky.gov

Jenny Paul, Librarian for Patrons P-Z: jennifer.paul@ky.gov

We want you to enjoy Talking Books. Your librarian will tailor your service to suit your needs. She will be happy to assist you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to call us for any of the following:

- **to make book requests**
- **with any questions or problems**
- **whenever your name, address, or telephone number changes**
- **to temporarily stop service**
- **if you want to change the types of books you get, or the number of books you receive**
- **when you have problems with books or machines**
- **if you want to change the format of your catalogs**
- **to cancel your service**

Include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence, request lists, e-mails, and telephone messages. We frequently receive request lists with no name and no way to identify the sender.

Please return each book as soon as you finish it. The maximum loan period is 30 days.

Remember to rewind all movies and cassette tapes before returning them.

Mark an "X" on the mail card of any defective book. Do not mark on the cassette, cartridge, or mailing container.

Take care of all books and players; keep them free of food, liquids, dust, debris, and insects.

Please save this information for future reference.